

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action dated January 13, 2005. Claims 1-66 are pending in the present application. Claim 49 has been amended. In the Office Action, claims 1-66 of the present application were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,360,250 to Anupam et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,668,276 to Ohkado et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,535,909 to Rust. Applicants respectfully traverse.

In particular, applicants submit that the pending claims are patentable over the prior art of record for at least the following reasons: First, the prior art of record fails to teach all limitations of the independent claims 1 and 49. Second, the prior art references disclose a communication paradigm different from the one taught in the present invention, and as such cannot be successfully combined without the use of impermissible hindsight.

First, in paragraphs 5 and 6, the Office Action states that the Anupam references teaches all limitations of independent claim 1 except for the step of analyzing HTTP requests on the first device used by the first participant. The Office Action further alleges that the Ohkado reference teaches the step of analyzing HTTP requests on the first device. Upon review of the prior art of record, applicants respectfully submit the Ohkado does not teach, disclose or even suggest analysis of HTTP request on the first device.

More specifically, the Ohkado reference discloses a centralized communication system in which all communications between the customer terminals 130 and agent terminals 170 are performed through a collaboration server 110. (*See*, e.g., col. 11, ll. 53-55; col. 12, ll. 48-56). The collaboration server 110 comprises a HTML request analyzer 117 that analyzes the contents of HTTP request sent from the customer terminals 130 to the web server 140. (*See*, e.g., col. 9, ll. 47-50). Thus, the analysis of the HTTP requests from the browser of the customer terminal 130 is performed not by the customer terminal but by the collaborative server 110 using analyzer 117. Ohkado does not teach, disclose or suggest that customer terminal 130 is configured to analyze its HTTP requests. Accordingly, the combination of Anupam and Ohkado does not render independent claims 1 and 49 obvious.

Second, applicants respectfully submit that present application is directed to a peer-to-peer communication system, in which several networked devices communicate directly in a collaborative web browsing. In contrast, the Anupam, Ohkado and Rust references disclose systems similar to those described in the Background Section of the present application. All of these systems are centralized, server-based communication system, in which all communications between the transacting parties are conducted through a central server.

For example, Anupam reference discloses a centralized server system 100 for managing multiple communication sessions between clients U1-UN through a manager 104 and controller 103 residing on the server system 100. (*See, e.g.,* Fig. 1; col. 3, ll. 15-23; col. 3, ll. 56-58; col. 4, ll. 50-64). Notably, all communications between the clients U1-UN are conducted through the server-based controller 103. (*See, e.g.,* Fig. 1; col. 5, ll. 25-28). In fact, Anupam does not teach, disclose or even suggest direct communication between clients U1-UN, as disclosed in the present application.

The Ohkado reference likewise discloses a centralized communication system in which all communications between the customer 130 and agent 170 are performed through a collaboration server 110. As shown in Figures 1 and 3 of the Ohkado patent, customer terminals 130 communicate with the collaboration server 110, which in turn communicates with the agent-side information terminals 170. (*See, e.g.,* col. 11, ll. 53-55; col. 12, ll. 48-56). Ohkado does not teach, disclose or suggest direct communication between customers 130 and agents 170, as taught in the present application.

Similarly, the Rust reference discloses a centralized communication system that enables a presenter in a collaborative web browsing session to record the presentation at a control server for playback at a later time. (*See, e.g.,* Fig. 1; col. 2, ll. 35-36). In particular, a presenter client 110 and attendee client 120 communicate with a control server 140 to establish a communication session. The control server 140 then records the presentation and plays it upon request to playback clients 150. (*See, e.g.,* col. 5, ll. 43-54). In the Rust reference, all parties communicate with each other through the control server 140.

In contrast, the present application is directed to a different communication paradigm. The system of the present invention is primarily based on a peer-to-peer communication, in which the server is utilized to initiate the session between the parties, while subsequent communications are performed directly between parties. (*See, e.g.,* Figures 1 and 2; page 4, ll. 26-28; page 8, ll. 18-28). To that end, independent claims 1 and 49 of the present application recite that the first device of the first participant analyzes HTTP requests and creates a set of instructions for duplicating the first participant's browsing experience. It then transmits the set of instructions to the second device, and the second device duplicates the first participant's browsing experience using the received set of instructions. Because the prior art of record does not teach such a communication scheme, claims 1 and 49, as well as the claims dependent thereon, are patentable over the cited prior art references.

Information Disclosure Statement

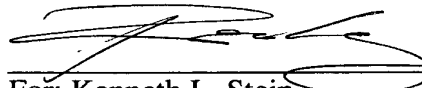
In response to the Examiner's request to submit a proper Information Disclosure Statement (IDS), applicants submit herewith for the Examiner's review an IDS listing the references that were originally cited in the specification of the present application.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance. A favorable disposition to that effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments concerning this submission, he is invited to call the undersigned at the phone number listed below.

Date: May 13, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



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